This observation features an exhumed crater in Meridiani Planum, an equatorial region on Mars where the MER Rover Opportunity once explored. An exhumed crater is one that formed a long time ago, and was subsequently infilled with material and buried. Subsequent erosion has caused this crater to become exposed at the surface once again.

The interior contains a sequence of layers that are remnants of the material that originally filled the crater. The layers were deposited and then became cemented as overlying layers pressed them down. The sequence of layers has not eroded evenly because different layer compositions and other factors, such as cementation and chemical alteration, can make certain locations more resistant to erosion.